

Practical News - Join our last winter webinar of the year

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



A look at history, inspiring paths toward a resilient future

Last Tuesday, PFI staff gathered at McFarland Park in Ames, Iowa, to spend a day delving into the history of agriculture in Iowa.

The deep dive started with an overview of the First Peoples of what would become Iowa. Staff then learned how the landscape, agriculture and communities were shaped by European settlement, the Green Revolution and the farm crisis of the 1980s that led to the founding of Practical Farmers.

We were fortunate to hear from experts Albert Lacson of Grinnell College, Andy Olson of the Tallgrass Prairie Center, retired agronomist Matt Liebman, Margaret Smith of Albert Lea Seed and Ash Grove Farm, Denise O'Brien of Rolling Acres Farm and **Larry Kallem** (pictured above), one of PFI's cofounders.

The session was the first of a three-part series where staff are exploring the contexts that led to today's agricultural realities, so we can work toward a more resilient future.

NEWS

Nominate a farmer implementing conservation practices on their land



Nominations are open for the 2024 Iowa Leopold Conservation Award, which recognizes outstanding land management practices by ranchers, farmers and forestland owners.

The \$10,000 award, given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, highlights efforts in soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat conservation on working land.

Nominate yourself or someone you know by July 1.

Work with us! Now hiring for our research and communications teams



We're Hiring!

Join the Practical Farmers of Iowa team!

PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Work with the PFI team and agricultural collaborators across the Midwest to create more resilient farming systems.

We're now hiring for the following positions:

- [Senior research coordinator](#)
- [Digital content coordinator](#)
- [Senior cover crop business coordinator](#)

Winter 2023 magazine: "A Prairie's Point of View"

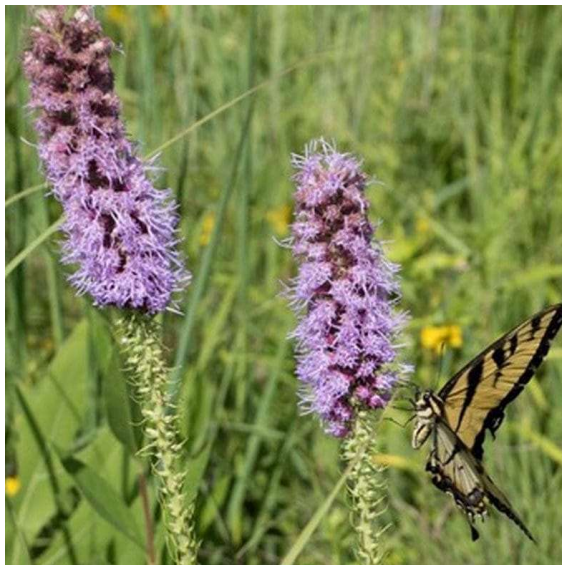


Photo courtesy of Prudenterra.

Most of what's written about establishing prairie is from a third-person view – a human perspective. It might be technical, or detached and dry.

But what if we could hear the prairie speak? What might we learn?

Follow a prairie through the seasons [in this magazine story](#), told through the eyes of the prairie itself.

Meet our new grants manager, Bria Holthe



Bria Holthe joins the PFI team as our new grants manager. In this role, she helps sustain PFI's funding and further our mission.

Previously, she worked with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, focusing on grant writing and local food programs.

[Learn more about Bria.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter webinar: "Diversifying Pollinator Habitat on a Multi-Generational Illinois Farm"



Tuesday, April 23 | Noon-1 p.m.

Join us for our last winter webinar of the year! Learn how **Nancy and John Brannaman** have added prairie mixes, Conservation Reserve Program wetland mixes and Conservation Stewardship Program pollinator plots on their Illinois farm.

They'll share insights into seeding equipment, seed bed preparation, mowing, weeding and burning techniques. [RSVP to join.](#)

Missed a winter webinar you wanted to see this year? [Catch the recordings on our YouTube playlist.](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Michael Vittetoe of Washington, IA, was featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau website](#): [Unlocking soil balance for crop success](#)

Kellie and A.J. Blair of Dayton, IA, and **Mark Schleisman** of Lake City, IA, were featured in [Successful Farming](#): [How saving excess rainfall can benefit your operation](#)

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, was featured in [Good Men Project](#): [New U.S. Agroforestry Project Will Pay Farmers To Expand 'Climate-Smart' Acres](#)

Dan Voss of Atkins, IA, was featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau website](#): [Nominations now open to recognize the 2024 Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year](#)

Julia McGuire of West Des Moines, IA, was featured in [Western Iowa Today](#): [Honey Bee Swarm Season Underway In Iowa](#)

John Gilbert of Iowa Falls, IA, wrote a commentary piece on [Swineweb.com](#): [Reflecting on the Winter Months: Snow, Repairs & Crops, John Gilbert, Gibraltar Farms](#)

Paul Rasch of Solon, IA, was featured on [WHO 13 News](#): [Popular orchard opens new location close to Des Moines metro](#)

Zack Smith of Lake Mills, IA, was mentioned in a podcast by [Edible Communities](#): [Food, Inc. 2: Michael Pollan and Melissa Robledo are Back for Seconds](#)

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, was featured in a [Taxpayers for Common Sense video](#): [Taxpayers for Common Sense – Farm Bill Panel: Midwest Voices](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in [Telegraph Herald](#): ['Women & Soil' event planned at Field of Dreams](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Agri Marketing](#): [Results from Iowa Seed Corn Cover Crop Initiative 2023 Announced](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Austin Daily Herald](#): [Hellmann's Takes Action to Save Mayo \(and Our Sandwiches\) from Extinction, Encourages Fans to Adopt Adorable Plushie Sandwiches](#)

Have you been featured in the media? If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

Contact: elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org

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